

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 RSR-01 /125 W

----- 032408

R 121545 W MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3370

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT SF

SUBJ: CISKEI ELECTION: AGRICULTURE MINISTER SEBE'S SUPPORTERS
WIN MAJORITY OF ELECTED SEATS

REF: CONGEN CAPE TOWN'S A-59, DECEMBER 22

1. SUPPORTERS OF CISKEI'S AGRICULTURE MINISTER L. L. SEBE, WHO IS IN CAPE TOWN TO LECTURE TO AMERICAN STUDENTS ON BOARD SS UNIVERSE CAMPUS, HAVE WON 15 OF 20 ELECTED SEATS IN ELECTION HELD FEBRUARY 21 IN HOMELAND AND BETWEEN FEBRUARY 19-23 IN URBAN AREAS OF SOUTH AFRICA. (SSE REF MESSAGE FOR BACKGROUND.)

2. RESULTS EXPECTED BE PUBLISHED MARCH 14. ABOVE ADVANCE INFO CAME TODAY (MARCH 12) FROM SEBE HIMSELF WHO PHONED HIS OFFICE FOR EARLY NEWS. SEBE, WHO WAS IN US LAST YEAR ON LEADER GRANT, TOLD US HE ALSO HAS SUPPORT OF 13 OR 14 CHIEFS. IF ACCURATE HE SHOULD BECOME NEW CHIEF MINISTER REPLACING CHIEF JUSTICE
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MABANDLA WHEN NEW ASSEMBLY MEETS ON MAY 21. REASONS FOR THREE-MONTH DELAY IN ELECTION OF CHIEF MINISTER AND CABINET

NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR BUT IT MAKES POSSIBLE OVER TWO MORE MONTHS OF POLITICAL INTRIGUE. DEEP TRIBAL AND OTHER DIFFERENCES WHICH DIVIDE CISKEI WERE REFERRED TO IN REF MESSAGE.

3. SEBE SAYS HE AND HIS SUPPORTS SELECTED CANDIDATES FOR 17 OF ELECTED SEATS WITH GREAT CARE FOR THEIR EDUCATION, EXPERIENCE AND INTELLIGENCE. HE BELIEVES NEW CABINET WHICH HE EXPECTS TO LEAD WILL THUS BE VERY COMPETENT.

4. AS FOR CISKEI'S FUTURE, SEBE SUPPORTS EVENTUAL AMALGAMATION WITH TRANSKEI AS FIRST STEP TOWARD FEDERATION OF TRANSKEI, KWAZULU AND POSSIBLY OTHER HOMELANDS AS PROPOSED BY CHIEF BUTHLEZI. LIKE OTHER HOMELAND LEADERS HE IS INSISTENT ON NEED FOR MORE LAND BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. WITHIN CISKEI HE HAS MANY IDEAS, STEMMING PARTLY FROM HIS AMERICAN EXPERIENCES, FOR IMPROVING TERRITORY'S AGRICULTURAL- TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND FARMING PRACTICES.

5. COMMENT: WE FIND SEBE MOST IMPRESSIVE OF CISKEI LEADERS WE HAVE MET AND BELIEVE HE WILL MAKE STRONG, INTELLIGENT AND INDEPENDENT- MINDED CHIEF MINISTER SHOULD HE, IN FACT, BE ELECTED.
O' NEILL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CAPET00199
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730346/abqcdxai.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CONGEN CAPE TOWN' S A-59, DECEMBER 22
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <22-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CISKEI ELECTION: AGRICULTURE MINISTER SEBE' S SUPPORTERS WIN MAJORITY OF ELECTED SEATS
TAGS: PINT SF
To: STATE INFO DURBAN
JOHANNESBURG
LONDON
MASERU
PRETORIA
USUN NY
GABORONE

MBABANE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005